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Security Council

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Letter dated 19 December 2012 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the request of the Security Council in presidential statement S/PRST/2012/1 of 19 January 2012, in which the Secretary-General was requested to provide a follow-up report to his report of 12 October 2011 on the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies (S/2011/634), within 12 months, to consider the effectiveness of United Nations system support to the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In the last 12 months, significant changes to the United Nations institutional arrangements in the rule of law area have been made. As you are aware, my Steering Committee on Civilian Capacities has been working to ensure that the United Nations can better respond to the needs of post-conflict societies in a number of priority areas, focusing its efforts in 2012 on the rule of law. At the same time, my Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group has been conducting an internal review of the institutional arrangements supporting the rule of law. Both these processes came to fruition this year, and led me to make the decision to reconfigure the way in which the United Nations delivers rule of law assistance in post-conflict States.

The effects of these institutional changes are currently being monitored, and will be analysed in a review of the effectiveness of our support to the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations.

In order to provide the Security Council with a full view of all the elements, as requested in the above-mentioned presidential statement, which fully factors in these recent institutional changes, it is anticipated that my report to the Council will be issued by 31 October 2013. I therefore respectfully request an extension of the time frame for this report. In the meantime, I am ready to provide an update on this issue to the Council during its meeting on the rule of law in January 2013.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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